



## Café Kunsthuis is officially open!

A delightful experience can be found at the Oranjestad Kunsthuis, directly across from Fort Zoutman in Oranjestad. The art gallery, featuring the work of some of the island's finest artists has opened their cozy café with a European flair where Aruba's art community likes to gather and socialize. This is the sort of place the island has long needed; where Henk makes a reasonably priced cocktail of your choice, and one can enjoy jazz and contemporary music that doesn't inhibit conversation.

The soft opening on Friday, January 19 was attended by a number of noted Aruban artists, including Stan Kuiperi and Grace Ashruf, who is now showing her work at the Access Art Gallery in Oranjestad. Island visitors and art lovers Harvey and Elaine from Maryland discovered the Café Kunsthuis, and a sculpture that they very likely may take home with them. Art lovers cannot only enjoy the cozy ambiance and admire the art, but also very likely converse with the artist that created a particular piece that may catch their eye.

Proprietors Gilbert Senchi, Curator of the South End Art Gallery in San Nicolas, and Karin Martens, Interior Designer are on hand as hosts most evenings, and are happy to explain any of the artwork and give a background of the artist. Gilbert, the artist that created the "Divi Chief" sculpture that adorns the lobby of the Divi Mega All Inclusive Resort designed and created the stylistic bar, and Karin's fashion sense is evident in the décor of the lounge.

Outside tables allow guest to enjoy some quiet conversation al fresco, and the general atmosphere is heady as conversations turn to art and culture. The Oranjestad Kunsthuis Café attracts a slightly more mature crowd, and for those that are looking for an interesting place to relax after dinner it is a unique experience. It is open Friday and Saturday nights from 8:00 PM until the owners go home, and if successful, during the week. It really begins to liven up after around 11:00 PM when other island events are over, and many friends stop by to visit for a bit. The casual, relaxed, and personal atmosphere makes all feel welcomed and involved. Definitely a place to be investigated for those that would like a better insight into island life and culture.